

Childers Delivers Disaster Assistance to Mississippi Agricultural Producers

September 15, 2010

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Travis Childers (MS-01) announced the release of up to \$550 million in crop assistance, as well as \$80 million in agriculture and poultry assistance, on a conference call this afternoon. Childers has been fighting to secure disaster funding since November 2009. These critical funds will benefit Mississippi producers who have been struggling to make ends meet since their crops were destroyed during last fall's heavy rains and flooding.

"I'm extremely pleased to announce the release of long-awaited agriculture disaster assistance to Mississippi's, and our nation's, producers. This was not an easy battle. I've been working with Rep. Marion Berry and Senator Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas since last November to get this assistance passed. Today, all of our hard work has finally started paying off," said Childers.

"This assistance isn't everything we wanted. But I know Mississippi farmers are the backbone of our state, and I'm going to keep fighting now, and as the 2012 Farm Bill debate progresses, to make certain that the Mississippi agriculture industry has the resources it needs to create jobs and contribute to our economy."

Rep. Childers serves as the only member of the Mississippi delegation on the House Agriculture Committee, representing the agricultural interests of not only North Mississippi, but of the entire state. Childers has been leading the fight to secure agriculture disaster assistance for Mississippi producers for nearly a year.

In November 2009, Childers sent letters urging USDA Secretary Vilsack and Governor Barbour to act quickly in gathering the information necessary to provide these counties with assistance. Subsequently, 79 of Mississippi's 82 counties – including all 24 counties in the First District – were granted primary disaster designations.

In December, Childers and Rep. Marion Berry (AR-01) introduced H.R. 4177 to provide timely disaster assistance to producers facing severe crop loss from last fall's excessive rainfall and drought. Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture introduced companion legislation in the Senate. In addition, Childers led a district-wide crop disaster tour with USDA Deputy Under Secretary Michael Scuse to show the USDA the severity of last year's crop losses, as well as the level of assistance hard-hit counties needed in order to recover.

Childers has also held various meetings concerning disaster assistance with members of the Mississippi Farm Bureau, the Mississippi Sweet Potato Council, and other producers throughout the First District and the state.

A pro-gun, pro-life Mississippian, Congressman Travis Childers (MS-01) represents the First Congressional District in North Mississippi. He is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committee. Congressman Childers co-chairs the reestablished bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus and was appointed to the bipartisan Second Amendment Task Force. For more information, visit www.childers.house.gov

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